

**IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

An instrument for holding an intervertebral spacer includes a shaft having a proximal end forming a handle, and a distal end forming a claw subassembly for holding the spacer; the claw subassembly including a first pincer which is fixed at the distal end of the shaft and a second pincer which is selectively rotateable into and out of spacer holding association with said first pincer to hold and release, respectively, the spacer. The instrument includes an actuation mechanism for selectively rotating the second pincer, wherein the first and second pincers have opposing inner curved surfaces that extend to a distal end of the instrument.